



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: TANEUM CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT-PHASE TWO

Description of Proposal:

This project will selectively remove some of the fir tree component from a four-acre forest stand, and transport the trees to small landings near Taneum Creek via heavy equipment. Trees will then be recruited in the stream via tracked excavator and with small tractor-mounted winches and hand tools. The recruited trees will be full length (45-100 feet), into areas with healthy riparian vegetation abutting the stream channel. In addition, some trees with rootwads will be transported into the Taneum watershed from other locations. These trees will be at least 40 feet in overall length, including large complex rootwads. High flows are expected to move the recruited logs downstream a short distance, but because the trees are much longer than the bankfull stream width, they will rack against adjacent riparian vegetation, forming complex jams with scour pools and sorted gravels. Naturally-recruited woody material will rack against the larger, key pieces to expedite the natural process of log jam formation.

At some locations, untreated logs will be driven as pilings into stream substrate above the active water level and along channel margins. These will serve as “racking members” for small material to lodge against during high flows. The intent is to develop an abundance of wood structure in the stream channel, to increase the amount of water that spreads out onto adjacent floodplains during high water. During high magnitude floods (such as the January 2009 flood) another anticipated benefit will be the movement of ice from the channel onto the adjacent floodplain areas. Through this restoration project, it is expected that frequency and magnitude of overland flow onto adjacent floodplain areas will increase.

The Yahne Bridge will also be removed, and replaced with a pedestrian bridge. The old bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic for many years, and the log abutments have deteriorated to the extent that the bridge deck has sunk approximately 1.5 feet. Some of the deck members are missing. Some of the approach fill on both sides of the bridge will be removed. A temporary bridge will be installed adjacent to the existing bridge location for construction traffic and access to both sides of the creek for fill removal. Fill that is removed will be deposited at an approved upland location. An overflow culvert in the existing bridge fill will also be removed during the fill removal. It is estimated that approximately 400 cy of material will be removed from the Taneum Creek floodplain.

Although the Yahne Bridge has been closed to vehicles, it remains a popular site for pedestrians. To address concerns over loss of access, the bridge is proposed to be replaced with a pedestrian-only bridge. However, the existing location is a poor bridge crossing site because the floodplain is wide (approximately 500 feet). The new bridge will be constructed upstream .7 miles at a location where the floodplain is less than half that width. A minor amount of brush clearing will occur at the new bridge for trail access to historically-used areas. See checklist for additional details.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any:

1. Located within WDFW's L.T. Murray Wildlife Area on Taneum Creek (Figures 1 and 2)
2. Just South of Taneum Road, near Thorp, Kittitas County, Washington 98946
3. WRIA 39—Upper Yakima River Basin
4. 47.08711° N; -120.80558° W – Most downstream location in the project reach
5. Township 19 N, Range 16 E, Sections 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35; and Township 18 N, Range 16 E, Sections 2 and 3
6. Parcel numbers: 933533, 563633, 553633, 523633, 513633, 503633, 613533, 573633

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **June 16, 2010**

You can submit your comments by email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov, through the WDFW SEPA website comment link at <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>, fax to (360) 902-2946, or mail to the address below. When you send us your comments, please provide the name of the proposal in your comment letter.

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Teresa Eturaspe at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2575.

DATE OF ISSUE: June 4, 2010

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).